

ANZAC DAY 2014 - *Lest we forget*

Keeping the Anzac tradition

KEYSBOROUGH retirement home residents were a day early when they marked 99 years since Australian troops landed at Gallipoli.

Dandenong RSL held a remembrance service at Lifeview Villa Lombardia on 24 April for residents who can no longer attend the traditional Dawn Services on Anzac Day.

The event included a wreath-laying, The Ode, the Last Post, readings, an afternoon tea and two-up.

“Many of our residents are ex-servicemen and women who would have attended the traditional Dawn Services in years gone by,” Lifeview CEO Madeline Gall said.

“It’s important we help carry on this tradition in our homes, so residents can continue to lead active and fulfilling lives.”

Residents also enjoyed a traditional gunfire breakfast on Anzac Day.



Alex Gerocs from Villa Lombardia was a chef in the army. 118803



Right: Residents Christina DiPaoli and Clifford Thorpe with staff member Linda Weight. 118803

Pictures: STEWART CHAMBERS

Early parade for veterans

By CASEY NEILL

GREATER Dandenong’s Anzac Day commemorations started on Easter Sunday.

The Springvale RSL sub-branch held a march down Springvale Road from Union Grove to the cenotaph outside Springvale Town Hall on 20 April.

Former sub-branch president and World War II veteran Geoffrey Charters read the first lesson, taken from St John’s Gospel Ch: 15:9-13.

Students from eight schools interrupted their holidays to participate, and Hotham MP Clare O’Neil, Lyndhurst MP Martin Pakula, Mayor Jim Memeti and councillors Loi Truong and Sean O’Reilly also attended.

Springvale RSL president Michael Custance said the event was smaller than usual due to Easter and school holidays.

“Next year, our thing’s going to be bigger than Ben Hur, because it’s the 100th anniversary,” he said.

“We’re already planning.”

Guest speaker, Vietnam Veteran and former Noble Park RSL sub-branch president Gordon Murray told the Noble Park service about local residents who’d served in conflicts over the years.

He said they’d played a key role in the conflict and the suburb should be very proud.

“This RSL is one of the best RSLs in Australia,” he said.

“When you mention you’re from Noble Park they say ‘that’s the one that does the work for veterans’.

“The same comradeship we have here is what those World War I diggers had.”



Guest speaker and former Noble Park sub-branch president Gordon Murray is a Vietnam veteran.



Noble Park Vietnam Veterans Association president Ray McCarthy.



Noble Park Vietnam Veterans Association treasurer Wally Sosnowski.



Keysborough College students Esharag Gamal and Mei Mei Bun read the Anzac Requiem at the Springvale service.



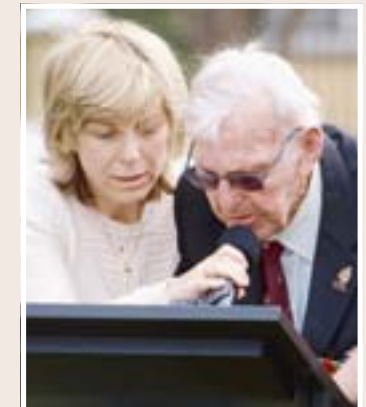
Springvale RSL past president Bob Waterson calls marchers to attention.



Jemma, 8, Jemma, 10, Victoria, 7, and Noble Park Girl Guides leader Cathy O’Brien lay a wreath at the Noble Park RSL children’s memorial.



Korean War veteran Les Hughes lays a wreath at Noble Park.



World War II veteran and Springvale RSL past president Geoffrey Charters delivers the first lesson, with help from his daughter Carol.